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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Allen, et al.

Docket No.: P02077US0

Serial No.: TBA

Group Art Unit: TBA

Filed: November 10, 2000

Examiner: TBA

Title: NOVEL MOLECULE
AND DIAGNOSIS
METHOD

Box Application
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washing, D.C. 20231

FIRST PRELIMINARY ADMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the claims prior to the examination of the application.

In the claims:

Please amend the following claims.

1. (Amended) A substantially isolated dimer comprising a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide[s], wherein each of said polypeptides comprises [the] an extracellular domain portion[s] of [the] a HLA-B27 heavy chain and said first and second polypeptides are crossed-linked to each other via said extracellular domain portion[s] and are capable of binding an HLA-B27 epitope or a substantially isolated functional dimeric or multimeric analogue thereof which is capable of binding said HLA-B27 epitope and/or competes for binding to a specific receptor for said dimer.

2. (Amended) [A] The dimer [according to] of claim 1, wherein said [in which the] polypeptides are linked by a disulphide bond between a cysteine residue in the first